

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 122855
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 NEA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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DRAFTED BY:AF/I:LGSHURTLEFF:DFE
APPROVED BY:AF/I:WHLEWIS
EUR/WE:JACUNNINGHAM
NEA/AFN:TWILKINSON
-----106359 151858Z /47

R 151520Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MADRID
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122855

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PERP, OAU, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH REQUEST FOR US SUPPORT ON CANARIES ISSUE
AT OAU SUMMIT

REF: MADRID 4422 (NOTAL)

1. WE ARE RELUCTANT TO ENTER THE OAU LISTS ON BEHALF OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 122855

SPAIN FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FIRST, WE ARE NOT A MEMBER OF
THAT ORGANIZATION AND HAVE TRADITIONALLY REFRAINED FROM
LOBBYING AT OAU MEETINGS. (FYI WE DO NOT HAVE OBSERVER
OR OTHER FORMAL STATUS AT THE OAU, THOUGH WE DO ROUTINELY
SEND OBSERVERS TO OAU SUMMITS.) MORE IMPORTANTLY, OUR
INTERVENTION WOULD LIKELY HAVE LITTLE PRACTICAL VALUE. THE
VAST MAJORITY OF OAU STATES HAVE ONLY MARGINAL INTEREST IN

THE CANARIES. LEADING "MODERATE" AFRICAN STATES SUCH AS SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, LIBERIA AND SUDAN ARE, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, PREPARED TO SCUTTLE ANY ATTEMPT TO PUT THE CANARIES ON THE OAU SUMMIT AGENDA. THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE CANARIES LIBERATION MOVEMENT (PRINCIPALLY LIBYA AND ALGERIA) WOULD NOT BE PERSUADED BY OUR ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE SPANISH POSITION.

2. FURTHER, IT IS OUR CONSIDERED OPINION THAT THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CANARIES

LIBERATION FRONT IS UNLIKELY TO BE ENDORSED BY THE OAU HEADS OF STATE AT THEIR SUMMIT MEETING IN KHARTOUM IN JULY. WITHOUT THIS ENDORSEMENT, THE ACTION OF THE COMMITTEE AT ITS TRIPOLI MEETING IS VIRTUALLY MEANINGLESS, AND DOES NOT IN ANY WAY REPRESENT AGREED OAU POLICY, THOUGH IT IS CLEARLY TROUBLESOME AND EMBARRASSING FOR THE SPANISH.

3. IN RESPONDING TO OREJA'S REQUEST, CHARGE SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS. WE ARE REPEATING MADRID REFTTEL TO KEY OAU POSTS FOR THEIR USE SHOULD THIS SUBJECT ARISE IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS OR WITH OAU SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS IN ADDIS ABABA.

--WE ARE AWARE OF THE GRAVE CONCERN WITH WHICH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC VIEW THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE
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PAGE 03 STATE 122855

ACTION ON THE CANARY ISLANDS. THE USG CLEARLY AND PROMPTLY STATED ITS POSITION THAT THE CANARY ISLANDS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF SPAIN.

--WE ARE INSTRUCTING OUR EMBASSIES IN KEY AFRICAN CAPITALS INFORMALLY TO URGE GOVERNMENTS TO OPPOSE RAISING THE CANARIES ISSUE AT THE KHARTOUM SUMMIT ON JULY 20 SHOULD THE SUBJECT ARISE DURING THEIR INTERCHANGES ON AFRICAN AND MULTILATERAL ISSUES.

--WE ARE AWARE THAT A NUMBER OF KEY AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY DID NOT AND DO NOT ENDORSE THE DECISION OF THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE TO RECOGNIZE THE CANARIES LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND WILL OPPOSE ENDORSEMENT OF THIS ACTION SHOULD IT ARISE AT THE JULY SUMMIT.

--BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE'S ACTION DOES NOT, IN OUR VIEW AND BY THE OAU'S OWN RULES OF PROCEDURE, BIND THAT ORGANIZATION TO ANY COURSE OF ACTION. ALL OAU COMMITTEE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL DECISIONS MUST BE RATIFIED BY THE OAU HEADS OF STATE, WHO OPERATE BY CONSENSUS.

--FINALLY, WE EXPECT THAT THE OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE EVOLVING SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. THE ATMOSPHERE AT KHARTOUM IS LIKELY TO BE MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT WHICH PREVAILED IN TRIPOLI, AND WE EXPECT THAT "MODERATE" AFRICANS WILL--AS THEY DID AT LAST YEAR'S LIBREVILLE SUMMIT -- ASSERT PRAGMATIC LEADERSHIP AND KEEP THE OAU FOCUSED ON THE REAL ISSUES FACING THE COUNTRIES OF AFRICA. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 122855

ORIGIN EUR-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY:EUR/WE:AHUGHES

APPROVED BY:EUR/WE:EMROWELL

-----081755 061120Z /11

R 060215Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122855

FOL STATE 122855 SENT ACTION MADRID INFO DAKAR MONROVIA
ABIDJAN LIBREVILLE LAGOS KHARTOUM DAR ES SALAAM ADDIS ABABA
RABAT NAIROBI MAY 15, 1978 REPEATED T YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122855

E.O. 11652:GDS

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PAGE 03 STATE 122855

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